



Collin County Medical Examiner

REPORTING CRITERIA/REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITAL DEATHS

REPORTABLE DEATHS TO THE COLLIN COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

Code of Criminal Procedure 49.25

1. When a person dies within 24-hours of admission to the facility. Time starts at triage.
2. When any person is killed or dies a non-natural death no matter how long they have been hospitalized. (suspected overdoses, accidents, homicides, suicides)
3. When a body is found & the cause and circumstances of the death are unknown
4. Any suicide, regardless of length of time hospitalized.
5. When patient dies without being attended by a physician & the cause is unknown.
6. Stillbirths and neonatal births if the delivery took place outside the hospital or if the delivery is related to or suspected to be related to trauma or drug use.
7. Any recent or remote trauma that has effected quality of life.

PREPARING TO REPORT THE DEATH TO COLLIN COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

1. Have the patient chart in front of you. Face sheet and patient demographics first.
2. Know the decedents terminal diagnosis, medical history & date/time and reason for admission.
3. Have Next of kin or emergency contact information available
4. Be ready with details such as where the patient came from & how the incident occurred.
5. Was the patient admitted under a pseudo name.
6. Be aware if blood was drawn upon admission and secure the location of the blood.
7. If a Next-of-Kin is known make sure they are notified prior to ME notification.
8. The Collin County Medical Examiner's office does not store, embalm, or cremate bodies. We are a science facility that performs forensic examinations. There is no county or city morgue.
9. If a patients family requests an autopsy but they do not meet criteria to report to the Medical Examiner's office, please refer them to hospital pathology or to thename.org
10. It is a Class B Misdemeanor (up to 180 days in jail & up to \$2,000.00 fine) to interfere with an inquest authorized by Texas Law.